

Kennedy - Khrushchev Correspondence on Cuba Crisis

1. Kennedy to Khrushchev, 21 October 1962  
Transmits text of President's TV statement. Reminds Khrushchev that U.S. had made clear that it would not tolerate Soviet deployment of offensive weapons in Cuba and is determined that this threat be removed.
2. Text of President Kennedy's statement, 21 October 1962
3. Khrushchev to Kennedy, 23 October 1962  
U.S. action is a threat to peace; USSR cannot recognize right of U.S. to control armaments essential to Cuba. Soviet Government response to President's statement will be transmitted via U.S. Embassy, Moscow.
4. Text of Soviet Government's statement on 23 October 1962
5. Kennedy to Khrushchev, 23 October 1962  
Situation is direct result of secret Soviet provision of offensive weapons to Cuba. Warns USSR to observe terms of quarantine.
6. Khrushchev to Kennedy, 25 October 1962  
President is asked to put himself in Khrushchev's place and understand that USSR must reject U.S. demands.
7. Kennedy to Khrushchev, 25 October 1962  
Khrushchev is reminded that U.S. action is consequence of Soviet deceit after U.S. had made its position clear on offensive weapons in Cuba.
8. Khrushchev to Kennedy, 26 October 1962  
Long rambling letter which hints at Soviet willingness to meet U.S. terms if U.S. promises not to attack Cuba. (Text sent to President)
9. Khrushchev to Kennedy, 26 October 1962  
Publicly released text that offered to make a deal on U.S. missiles in Turkey for Soviet missiles in Cuba.
10. White House public statement, 27 October 1962  
Brushes aside public version of Khrushchev letter proposing deal involving Turkey and Cuba.
11. Khrushchev to Kennedy - 28 October
12. Kennedy to Khrushchev - 28 October

11. Kennedy to Khrushchev, 27 October 1962

Reply to Khrushchev letter of 26 October. Assuming Soviets agree to render offensive weapons in Cuba inoperable under effective UN arrangements, the U.S. would be willing to negotiate settlement on the basis of removal of offensive weapons from Cuba under UN supervision and establishment of suitable safeguards against future introduction of such weapons. When this is done, U.S. would remove the quarantine and give assurances against an invasion of Cuba.

12. Khrushchev to Kennedy, 28 October 1962

The Soviet Government has issued instructions for the cessation of work on offensive weapons installations in Cuba, their dismantling and return to the USSR.